

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 CU-04 LAB-04 SIL-01 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00  
OMB-01 /077 W  
-----087050 300956Z /20

R 300753Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2969  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMCONSUL MUNICH  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH  
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 0781

EO 11652GDS  
TAGS: PINT PL  
SUBJ: JANUARY 26 MEETING OF THE POLISH TERM

1. SUMMARY: THE POLISH SEJM (PARLIAMENT MET ON  
JANUARY 26 FOR THE FOURTH AND LAST TIME IN ITS CURRENT  
TERM, WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, 1977. PZPR FIRST SECRETARY  
EDWARD GIEREK AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF  
STATE EDWARD BABIUCH GAVE SPEECHES AND THE SEJM DISCUSSED THE  
ROLE OF PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AND THE EFFECTIVENESS  
OF THE LABOR CODE. THE MOST NOTEWORTHY EVENT WAS THE REMOVAL OF  
JOZEF TEJCHMA AS MINISTER OF CULTURE AND ART. TEJCHMA'S SUCCESSOR  
WAS NOT NAMED, WHICH MAY REFLECT INTERNAL DIFFERENCES  
ON CULTURAL POLICY. END SUMMARY.

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2. BABIUCH DELIVERED A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE  
ON THE ACTIVITIES OF PEOPLE'S COUNCILS, THE ORGANS OF LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT TO WHICH ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON  
FEBRUARY 5. ALTHOUGH TEMPERED WITH AN OCCASIONAL  
CRITICAL NOTE, BABIUCH'S SPEECH GENERALLY LAUDED THE  
ACHIVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS. IN

ADDITION, HE OUTLINED STEPS TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN THE  
ROLE OF THE COUNCILS IN EVERYDAY LIFE.

3. BABIUCH EXTOLLED PEOPLE'S COUNCILS AS EXEMPLARS  
OF SELF-GOVERNMENT "WHICH COMBINE IN THEIR ACTIVITY  
REPRESENTATIVE, SELF-GOVERNING, AND DIRECT FORMS  
OF SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY," UNITING THE INTERESTS OF  
DIFFERENT CLASSES AND SOCIAL LEVELS, AND LOCAL  
INITIATIVES WITH "GENERAL SOCIETAL TASKS". BABIUCH  
SAID THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF PEOPLE ENGAGED  
IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE HAS RISEN. FIFTY-THREE PERCENT  
OF THE HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE HAD SOME HIGHER EDUCATION.  
TWENTY PERCENT HAVE COMPLETED SOME FORM OF HIGHER  
EDUCATION. OVER 87 PERCENT OF THE WORKERS IN LOCAL  
ADMINISTRATION HAVE COMPLETED MIDDLE-LEVEL SCHOOLING.  
BABIUCH NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT "NOT ALL THE PEOPLE'S  
COUNCILS WORK WITH THE NECESSARY ACTIVITY AND  
THE FREQUENCY OF COUNCIL SESSIONS HAS FALLEN OFF". HE  
SAID "THE ELIMINATION OF APPEARANCES OF BUREAUCRATISM,  
A LIMITATION ON REPORTING AND CORRESPONDENCE, AND A  
DEEPENING OF CONTROL" ARE NECESSARY TO IMPROVE THE  
SERVICE SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCILS.

4. BECAUSE OF THEIR EXCELLENT WORK IN THE PAST, BABIUCH  
IMPLIED, PEOPLE'S COUNCILS ARE TO BE INTRUSTED WITH  
EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE FUTURE. BEFORE  
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1978, PEOPLE'S COUNCILS RECEIVED HALF THE INCOME DERIVED  
FROM STATE TURNOVER TAXES AND LEVIES ON ENTERPRISES  
AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE NON-SOCIALIZED ECONOMY.  
COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF THE PLAN. NOW THE COUNCILS GET  
THE ENTIRE SURPLUS. IN ADDITION, BABIUCH SAID, PEOPLE'S  
COUNCILS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEVOTE PART OF THEIR RESERVE  
FUNDS TO DEVELOP LOCAL SERVICES. FURTHERMORE, PEOPLE'S  
COUNCILS WILL BE ALLOWED, ON AN EXPERIMENTAL BASIS, TO  
FINANCE PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS BY THEMSELVES. BABIUCH  
SAID THE COUNCIL OF STATE IS WORKING ON GIEREK'S  
PROPOSAL MADE AT THE SECOND PARTY CONFERENCE EARLIER THIS  
MONTH, TO ESTABLISH SOCIAL CONTROL COMMITTEES ATTACHED  
TO THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS. THIS PROPOSAL "AIMS TO  
INTEGRATE DIFFERENT FORMS OF SOCIAL CONTROL AS WELL AS  
TO INCREASE THEIR EFFECTIVENESS." ACCORDING TO  
BABIUCH, THESE COMMITTEES, IN COOPERATION  
WITH PROSECUTORS' OFFICES AND THE POLICE, WILL INSURE  
LAW AND ORDER IN THE CITIES AND IN THE COUNTRYSIDE  
AND COUNTERVIOLATIONS OF "NORMS OF LAW AND PRINCIPLES  
OF SOCIAL CO-EXISTENCE."

5. SEVERAL SEJM DELEGATES ECHOED BABIUCH'S PRAISE

OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS. THE SEJM UNANIMOUSLY  
APPROVED A RESOLUTION WHICH ENDORSED THE REPORT OF THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE AND EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT THE  
ELECTIONS TO THE PEOPLE'S COUNCILS WILL CONSTITUTE A  
MANIFESTATION OF NATIONAL UNITY. (COMMENT: NO DOUBT  
A SAFE PREDICTION. END COMMENT).

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6. GIEREK'S SPEECH WAS WIDE IN SCOPE, BUT LIMITED IN  
INTEREST. HE TOUCHED ALL THE BASES OF HIS RECENT SPEECHES  
AND GENERALLY LEFT THE SAME IMPRINT. HE STRESSED THE GREAT  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE PAST SEVEN YEARS, THE GROWING  
IMPORTANCE OF POLAND ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE, AND THE  
NEED FOR ALL PATRIOTIC POLES TO UNITE TO SOLVE PROBLEMS  
THAT THE COUNTRY STILL FACES. RAISING THE EFFECIVENESS  
OF THE ECONOMY, GIEREK SAID, REMAINS PROBLEM NUMBER ONE.  
POLAND, HE CONTINUED, MUST PRODUCE MORE AND BETTER  
PRODUCTS AND STAKE OUT A LARGER CLIAM IN THE INTER-  
NATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOR. HE SAID THE PEOPLE'S  
COUNCIL, "AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF DEMOCRACY", CAN PLAY  
A KEY ROLE IN IMPROVING THE ECONOMY AND DISCOURAGING

"THE USE OF A SERVICE POSITION TO TAKE CARE OF PRIVATE  
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INTERESTS, BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION, PROTECTION AND  
FAVORITISM, WASTE AND ALCOHOLISM."

7. GIEREK SUPPLEMENTED THESE PLATITUDES WITH TWO NEW  
FACTS OF INTEREST: -) AS OF MAY 17 1978, A MOTHER,  
REGARDLESS OF HER FINANCIAL STATUS, WILL RECEIVE 2000  
ZLOTYS AFTER THE BIRTH OF EACH CHILD; B) NOTING THAT THE  
1976-1980 PLAN CALLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF 1,575,000 APARTMENTS,  
GIEREK SAID THUS FAR ONLY 550,000 UNITS HAVE BEEN BUILT. (COMMENT:  
ALTHOUGH COINED IN TERMS INDICATING CONCERN FOR THE  
WELFARE OF YOUNG MOTHERS, THE 2000 ZLOTY ALLOTMENT FOR  
CHILD-BEARING MAY BE SEEN AS A STEP, IF A HALTING ONE  
TOWARD OFFICIAL ENCOURAGEMENT OF LARGER FAMILIES IN  
THE FACE OF THE LABOR CRUNCH WHICH CONFRONTS THE POLISH  
ECONOMY AS IT IS NOW ORGANIZED. IN VIEW OF THE FULFILLMENT OF  
ONLY A LITTLE MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE FIVE-YEAR HOUSING  
PLAN IN TWO-FIFTHS OF THE TIME ALLOTTED, GIEREK'S COMMENT THAT  
"NOT A LITTLE REMAINS TO BE DONE" ON THE HOUSING AREA IS RATHER  
AND UNDERSTATEMENT.

7. MINISTER OF LABOR TADEUSZ RUDOLF DELIVERED A  
GOVERNMENT REPORT ON THE LABOR CODE. HE AND SUBSEQUENT  
SPEAKERS STRESSED THAT, WHILE THE CODE LISTS RIGHTS  
WORKERS ENJOY, ABOVE ALL, THE "CONSTITUTIONALLY  
GUARANTEED RIGHT TO WORK FOR ALL CITIZENS OF OUR  
COUNTRY," IT ALSO DETAILS RESPONSIBILITIES THEY  
ARE EXPECTED TO MEET. NOT ALL WORKERS, RUDOLF IMPLIED,  
COMPLY WITH THE LABOR CODE. IN 1976, HE SAID, THE AVERAGE  
WORKER MISSED 22 DAYS OF WORK. THE PROBLEM OF ABSENTEEISM  
GREW MORE ACUTE IN 1977. IN THE FIRST THREE QUARTERS  
OF LAST YEAR, THE AVERAGE WORKER HAD ALREADY FAILED  
TO SHOW UP FOR WORK 17.5 DAYS. EVEN MORE SERIOUS,  
ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER, IS THE LOSS OF PRODUCTION  
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TIME WHEN THE WORKER IS ON THE JOB. VIOLATIONS OF  
LABOR DISCIPLINE AND BREAKDOWNS ON WORK ORGANIZATION  
CAUSE A LOSS OF 25 DAYS A YEAR PER WORKER IN THE  
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR. GOODS THAT REACH THE MARKET, RUDOLF  
CONTINUED, TOO OFTEN LACK SUFFICIENT QUALITY TO ATTRACT  
CUSTOMERS. LOSSES DUE TO THE PRODUCTION OF INFERIOR  
GOODS AMOUNTED TO 14 BILLION ZLOTYS IN THE FIRST  
THREE QUARTERS OF 1977. INCULCATION OF THE TENETS OF

THE LABOR CODE IN THE WORKING POPULATION IS ESSENTIAL  
TO IMPROVE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLISH ECONOMY,  
RUDOLF CONCLUDED.

8. AT THE CLOSE OF ITS SESSION, THE SEJM APPROVED  
THE RECALL OF JOZEF TEJCHMA AS MINISTER OF CULTURE AND  
ART. TEJCHMA REMAINS A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL  
OF MINISTERS. A REPLACEMENT AS MINISTER OF CULTURE  
"WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE SEJM AT A LATER DATE."  
ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT ANNOUNCED IN THE SEJM, WE UNDER  
STAND THAT JANUSZ WILHELMI, VICE MINISTER OF CULTURE,  
HAS ASSUMED THE TITLE OF DIRECTOR  
(KIEROWNIK) OF THE MINISTRY, IN WHICH CAPACITY HE WILL  
SERVE UNTIL TEJCHMA'S SUCCESSOR IS NAMED.

9. COMMENT: TEJCHMA'S REMOVAL CONFIRMS RUMORS WHICH  
HAD BECOME WIDESPREAD IN RECENT DAYS. MANY INTELLECTUALS  
WILL REGARD THE NOMINATION OF HIS SUCCESSOR AS A LITMUS  
TEST OF THE REGIME'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ARTS.  
THOSE WHO FEAR A CRACKDOWN MAY TAKE SOME COMFORT  
IN THE APPARENT UNLIKELIHOOD THAT WILHELMI, WIDELY  
REGARDED AS A HARDLINER, WILL BECOME MINISTER. THE  
FACT THAT HE WAS NOT IMMEDIATELY APPOINTED TO THE POSITION,  
COUPLED WITH THE TRADITION WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND, RARELY  
PERMITS A DEPUTY MINISTER TO STEP UP DIRECTLY TO FILL  
A MINISTERIAL POSITION, MAKE WILHELMI AN IMPROBABLE  
CANDIDATE. HIS REPORTED INSTALLATION AS DIRECTOR OF  
THE MINISTRY MAY INDICATE THAT THE REGIME IS IN NO  
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HURRY TO FIND A SUCCESSOR TO TEJCHMA, PERHAPS BECAUSE  
OF UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES WITHIN THE PARTY OVER CULTURAL  
POLICIES. FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW MINISTER  
CANNOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE NEXT SESSION OF THE SEJM  
(SCHEDULED IN MARCH, PRESUMABLY AFTER THE CONCLUSION  
OF THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW CONFERENCE). END COMMENT.  
DAVIES

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## Message Attributes

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